

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Brief Description of the Drawings section beginning on page 5, line 13, as follows:

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of a prior art rotor assembly;

Figure 2 shows a perspective view of a rotor blade incorporating a prior art shroud;

Figure 3 shows a top elevation view of rotor blades incorporating a prior art shroud;

Figure 4 shows a side elevation view of a rotor blade incorporating a shroud according to one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5 shows graphical results of experimental simulations of several embodiments of the present invention;

Figure 6 shows a perspective view of a rotor blade incorporating a shroud according to another embodiment of the present invention in which the leading and trailing edges are tapered; and

Figure 7 shows a side elevation view of a rotor blade incorporating a shroud according to another embodiment of the present invention in which the damper cavity inner diameter surface defines an opening having a narrow ledge; and

~~Figure 8 shows a sectional view of the rotor blade shown in Figure 7.~~

REMARKS

Applicant submits this Preliminary Amendment to correct a typographical error appearing in the specification of the present application, and particularly the Brief Description of the Drawings section of the specification. In this regard, the present application, as filed, contains a reference to "FIG. 8" in the Brief Description of the Drawings. The Detailed Description of the Invention, however, does not include a reference to FIG. 8 and a FIG. 8 was not filed as part of the five drawing sheets originally submitted with the present application. As such, Applicant has herewith amended the Brief Description of the Drawings section to remove the reference to FIG. 8.